

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 057116
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EB/TEX:WBREW
APPROVED BY:EB/TEX:WBREW
-----001635 070637Z /10
P 062243Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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FOR MICHAEL SMITH

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 4200 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GENEVA AND ALL EC CAPITALS MAR 03.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 04200

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ETRD
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION CONCERNS ON TEXTILES

REF: BRUSSELS 3885

1. COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON CALLED ME IN FEBRUARY 2 TO
TELL ME ABOUT A COUPLE OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THE
COMMISSION WISHED TO AVOID IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
ADMINISTRATION IN GENEVA OF THE RENEWED MFA.

2. HIS FIRST POINT WENT TO THE QUESTION OF THE SCOPE
OF COMPETENCE FOR THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BOARD (TSB).

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THE EC HAS HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME LDC'S MIGHT BE TRYING
TO ENLIST US ALLEGIANCE IN AN EFFORT TO STRETCH THE TSB
AUTHORITY TO ALLOW IT TO GO BEYOND QUESTIONS OF IMPLI-
MENTATION, AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS, TO DECISIONS AS
TO WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A REASONABLE DEPARTURE FROM
THE MFA. DAVIGNON SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVES
OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES IN SEEKING TO "COME IN THROUGH THE

WINDOW" ONCE THE DOOR HAS BEEN LOCKED AND ALSO THE CALMING EFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE IN THE US CONGRESS. BUT, HE WARNED, AN EFFORT TO EXTEND TSB COMPETENCE WOULD OPEN AN ISSUE WITH THE EC MEMBER STATES, WHICH HE HAD DONE HIS BEST TO AVOID. DAVIGNON SAID THE COMMISSION WAS DELIVERING A SIMILAR WARNING TO ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS CONCLUDED BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS.

3. THE SECOND POINT CONCERNED THE FUNCTIONING OF THE TSB. DAVIGNON EXPLAINED THAT A CURRENT US PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PARTIES TO A COMPLAINT TO REMAIN SILENT DURING THE DISCUSSION AND THE VOTE (AFTER HAVING BEEN ALLOWED TO STATE THEIR CASE) WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. HE WARNED THAT IF SUCH A PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED, THE EC MIGHT BOYCOTT THE TSB.

4. THE COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED THE ADDITION OF TWO EXTRA MEMBERS TO THE TSB AND FEELS STRONGLY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A BALANCE BETWEEN EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS ON THE TSB. THE COMMISSION'S MIND IS OTHERWISE OPEN ON THIS ISSUE. DAVIGNON SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND AND NOTED THAT THE EC WAS NOT LOCKED INTO ITS PROPOSAL AND COULD POSSIBLY "DO BETTER".

5. DAVIGNON SAID EC TEXTILE TEAM WOULD CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO SAN FRANCISCO AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH SMITH (REFTTEL) PREPARATORY TO THE APRIL 3 GENEVA MEETING OF THE TEXTILE COMMITTEE. HINTON UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TEXTILES, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE057116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/TEX:WBREW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780102-0508
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803101/aaaadhwi.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a21df8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 3885
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3103329
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC COMMISSION CONCERNS ON TEXTILES
TAGS: ETRD, XT, EEC, TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BOARD
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a21df8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014